accordingly. That progress in major irrigation has not been rapid is due to the necessity for careful scientific investigation of important irrigation schemes, to ensure that money is wisely spent and the best use made of the water available. The services of Mr. C. V. Stephens, an irrigation expert who has recently retired from Madras Service, were obtained as consulting engineer, and while his primary duty was to investigate the important Chalakkudi Scheme he has also examined several other schemes which have been or are being investigated. A detailed survey of the entire area proposed to be benefitted by the Chalakkudi Irrigation Scheme had to be made and in view of the magnitude of the scheme, this has taken time. The investigation has just been completed and the estimating is now being done. Provided the approval of the Travancore Government is received in time, it is hoped to start execution of the scheme in September and a provision of Rs. 2½ lakhs has been made in the budget.

The Thottara Puncha Scheme after further detailed investigation was not proceeded with in its original form as it was decided that the lands were not suitable for two crops. An alternative scheme to safeguard the puncha crops from draughts and the ingress of salt water is under consideration and as Travancore is also concerned, consultation with that Government is now being carried on.

Closely connected with the original Thottara Puncha Drainage Scheme is a scheme to safeguard the adjoining kari nilams in the villages of Amballur and Keecheri. An estimate of Rs. 37,000 has been sanctioned for this scheme which will be carried out in 1119.

The important Kambalathara Reservoir Scheme costing Rs. 98,750 is to be taken up in 1119. The scheme provides for the conversion of the existing Kumbalathara Eri into a pucca Reservoir with a capacity of fifty million cubic feet.

Two other schemes designed to increase food production to be examined by Mr. Stephens are the Puthur River Diversion Scheme and the Thannikudam Scheme. A provision of Rs. 20,000 has been made in the budget for the former scheme. Schemes for encouraging the construction of private eries in Chittur Taluk and for converting part of the Conolly Canal into a fresh water canal are under examination. The Madras Government have not yet consented to the latter scheme.

Besides these major irrigation projects the Hon'ble Minister has carried through a heavy programme of minor irrigation works and has planned a further large programme for next year. Details of the progress made will no doubt be given in the Hon'ble Minister's speech.

Earthwork on the first section of the Chalakkudi Anamallais Road is almost complete and metalling and construction of bridges are in progress.

Progress in the important work of construction of groynes to prevent erosion in the coastal areas south of the harbour, has been retarded due to the heavy demand for stone for harbour and defence purposes, which has had to be given priority. However, breakwaters have been constructed protecting a mile of coast and boulders have been collected for protective works covering a further mile. A provision of Rs. 75,000 has been made in the budget for groynes covering a further two miles.

Under waterworks, there is a provision of Rs. 1,15,000 for maintaining and improving the water supply for the Cochin area. For Security reasons it is not possible to give details, but it may be said that the improvements proposed will secure an adequate and reliable supply.

A popular scheme to be undertaken during 1119 is the deepening of the Trichur navigation canals.

Applying the "inescapability" criterion, building work has been reduced to a minimum. The cost of maintaining roads has inevitably increased due to the great increase in the cost of labour and materials, but here too every possible economy has been exercised, the thickness of metal being reduced except on the important trunk roads.

SALT MANUFACTURE

In the Excise Department the most interesting development was the attempt to produce salt in the State. Despite most unfavorable weather conditions the experiment made at Malipuram by an experienced Salt Officer, obtained from Madras, showed that prospects were favourable. Endeavors are now being made to arrange for a local capitalist to take the area on lease and manufacture salt. Sales of abkari shops resulted in a striking increase of Rs. 7,35,811.

NATION BUILDING DEPARTMENTS

While first priority in respect of both endeavour and expenditure has to be given to measures designed to avert starvation, to maintain Law and Order and public morale and to help the war effort, keeping always in mind the necessity, as an anti-inflation measure to apply the "inescapability" criterion to all expenditure, it has proved possible to allot additional funds to nation-building departments, both to meet inevitable increases in expenditure due to war

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conditions and for new developments which are considered essential and beneficial in present circumstances. Under Agriculture, besides the large allotment under "Advances" for the purchase of manure there is provision for a dairy at the Central Farm and for experiments in tobacco-growing. Under Co-operation, Rs. 50,000 has been advanced to the Central Marketing Society for the production of standard cloth through weaving societies. Under Education liberal provision has been made for the long overdue provision of playgrounds for Secondary Schools. Funds are provided to remedy the long-standing and legitimate grievance of officiating teachers who used to be thrown out during the vacation. Various additional posts will also be aided. Under the three health services, the most striking increases are in Ayurveda, the Budget Estimate for 1119 being nearly double that of 1118. The scarcity and high cost of western medicines due to war conditions has resulted in an increased demand for Ayurvedic treatment, particularly among the poor. Hence it is proposed to open as many as 4 new Ayurvedic hospitals and six new Vaidyasalas. Panchayats also fare well. Despite the separation of Village Courts from Panchayats and a grant to them of about half a lakh of rupees the Panchayat Department will get its usual allotment including a special contribution of Rs. 1,85,000 mainly intended for minor irrigation.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been provided in the budget under "Beggar Relief." The Government realise that this is a problem which has long demanded a solution and which has been aggravated by the present food shortage. As the various Municipalities who were asked to prepare schemes, have not yet submitted plans which would solve the problem satisfactorily, Government have decided to form an ad hoc committee to be presided over by the Hon'ble minister to formulate a comprehensive scheme for beggar relief.

The Government realise the necessity for providing adequate dearness allowance for low-paid Government servants, and in view of a further rise in the cost of living in recent months propose to raise the rate of dearness allowance by 50 per cent that is, from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per month. The additional cost will be Rs. 3·28 lakhs.

STATE LABOUR FORCE

I will now refer to activities connected directly or indirectly with the war effort. Of the schemes launched during my term of office, the most beneficial both to the war effort and to the poorer classes in the State, has been the recruitment to the Cochin State Labour Force. From this small State with its population of less than 1½ millions, 50 units each over 800 strong with a total strength of over 40,000 officers and men have been despatched for war service. This labour force is doing work of vital importance to the war effort, preparing the way, as it is, for offensive action in the future. At this stage of the war, when we are endeavouring to put forward our maximum effort as quickly as possible to finish the job, the work of these labourers is of special value, as, unlike men recruited for the defence services, who have to undergo a lengthy period of training, our labourers are already trained for the work they have to do and lose no time in setting about it. I am glad to be able to report that the arrangements made for the accommodation, rationing, clothing and health of the units both in Assam and in Ceylon are now satisfactory, and that most of the units have earned good reports. The value of the scheme to the poor in the State will be realised from the fact that some 4 lakhs of rupees is remitted each month by the labourers to their families in different parts of the State.

Despite the drain on the man-power of the State caused by the raising of this huge labour force, recruitment for the defence services has been very satisfactory, Cochin leading South India in this respect. Recruitment for technician training has also progressed well, and Cochin stands second only to Mysore among Indian States in the number of training centres established. Taking into account recruitment for all forms of war service, Cochin is believed to stand first in all India with the possible exception of the Punjab.

WAR SUPPLIES

The demands for supplies of all kinds in modern war are very great and Cochin has made an important contribution. Timber again holds the first place and Cochin supplies a vital war need, since the loss of Burma deprived the United Nations of one of their most valuable sources of Timber supply. Vigorous efforts to increase extraction have met with success, and improvements to the Saw Mills at Chalakkudi and Trichur have increased the output considerably. It is now estimated that the supply of timber for 1943 will amount to the record figure of 15,000 tons of round timber and 50,000 sleepers.

The opening of the Plywood Factory at Chalakkudi has ensured a steady and standing market for large quantities of low grade species of timber available in the State forests for which there was formerly little demand. The output of the factory already amounts to 10,000 square feet a day. At Chalakkudi also it is proposed shortly to start an important new Chemical and

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